



Fact Sheet

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Force-on-Force Security Exercises

Security is a priority for the NRC - it is one of our strategic goals. One of the NRC's responses to September 11th was to upgrade the security forces at nuclear facilities around the country. To test the adequacy of the security forces, the NRC implemented a more robust force-on-force (FOF) exercise program. Force-on-Force exercises are an essential part of NRC's oversight of licensees' security programs.

NRC's FOF security exercises realistically test guard capability and security programs at nuclear power plants.

- The NRC requires nuclear power plant operators to defend the plant against attackers and potential theft of special nuclear material.
- During the FOF, a number of commando-style attacks are carried out against a plant's security forces, looking for deficiencies in the plant operator's defensive strategy.
- Any significant problems are promptly identified, reviewed, and fixed.
- Each nuclear power plant site will have one FOF exercise every three years.
- The NRC and the plant operator ensure the safety of plant employees and the security of the plant during FOF exercises.

The key to a successful FOF program is a well trained mock adversary force.

- Historically, adversary teams have come from a variety of sources. This led to inconsistencies in the adversary team capabilities, training, and knowledge.
- After 9/11, NRC worked with the industry to develop a composite adversary force (CAF), which is trained to standards issued by the Commission. The adversary force for all FOF exercises will come from this CAF.

- NRC considered using NRC staff, other federal personnel, and industry personnel for ensuring a credible, well-trained, and consistent adversary force. NRC decided to issue adversary force standards and guidelines for the industry to implement.
- NRC expects the CAF to be a significant improvement in ability, consistency, and effectiveness over the previous adversary forces.

The NRC plans the FOF exercises, runs the exercises, and evaluates the exercises.

- NRC evaluates the plant operator's performance during FOF exercises; not the plant operator. NRC will ensure the effectiveness of the FOF evaluation program if industry is unable to maintain an adequate and objective CAF.
- The CAF will be evaluated using more rigorous NRC performance standards issued in April 2004, including:
 - knowledge, skills, abilities, performance and training of team members;
 - individual and team tactics, tactical communications, and operational planning,
 - firearms knowledge and proficiency;
 - exercise simulation equipment, physical security systems and specialized equipment; and
 - medical qualifications, physical fitness, specific minimum qualifications, and medical disqualification.

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